



# State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

## Broome County Health Department

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Rebecca A. Kaufman, MS, Director of Public Health

### BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL

July 7, 2017

**Present:** Scott Baker, Don Bowersox, Megan Brockett, Katie Cusano, Valerie Datta, Jim Hawley, Rebecca Kaufman, Lee Livermore, Jill Lloyd, Haley McCrory, Mary McFadden, Kevin McManus, Jim Mullins, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Kara Skellett, Penny Stringfield, Susan Wheeler, Lorraine Wilmot, Dr. John Zevan

**Absent:** Jill Alford-Hammitt, Robin Alpaugh, Iris Borilla, Theresa Bovier, Diane Brown, Stephen Cornwell, Rich David, Megan D'Introno, Jason Garnar, Matthew Gawors, Andrea Guccia, David Harder, Dr. Julia Hunter, Ben Lainhart, Donna Lupardo, Kate Newcomb, Kimberly Newell, Dennis O'Keefe, Michael Ponticiello, Dr. Peter Ronan, Raymond Serowik, Colleen Wagner, Chris Whalen, Alan Wilmarth

**Guests:** Senator Fred Akshar, Amber Kida- AmeriCorps Project

**Senator Akshar Visit:** Senator Akshar is Co-Chair of the NYS Task Force on Heroin and Opiate Addiction. The Task Force will continue to travel and listen at 8-10 community-based provider events to get feedback on legislative changes made last year to see if they are working. They provide oversight for the appropriation which was \$189 million last year and \$214 million this year. Six million dollars was left on the table last year and they don't want that to happen again. \$400,000 is being allocated for local community-based organizations. The Task Force is working with ACBC and would like to expand the footprint with Lourdes Youth Services to put additional counselors in the schools. They are working with the BC Sheriff's Office to increase the presence of counselors for the inmate population. The Task Force's focus this year is on law enforcement and increasing penalties for targeting someone who is in recovery or a treatment facility. Senator Akshar asked for input from the group. Insurance coverage for treatment is an ongoing discussion. Dr. Ryan noted that public health can receive 36% on expenditures for public health activities that are state aidable. Substance use disorders have not been considered a public health activity and it would be beneficial if this was acknowledged as a public health initiative that needs funding.

**Service Provider Event:** The Service Provider Event is scheduled for July 26, 10:00-2:00 at the Oakdale Mall. Carole Kuklis is contacting the twelve-step groups to participate. They are working on accessing some private rooms to do on-site assessments which ACBC and UHS could do. Once the contract is approved through the county system, flyers will be sent out. Interviews will be set up with the Executive Directors (or designees) to discuss available services. They are looking for a person in recovery who would be willing to speak to the media.

**HIDTA OD Maps Update:** Dispatchers will be trained next week. Police departments will train their officers on the codes to call in and they should be ready to go by mid-week next week.

**Overdose Prevention Project Peer Response Team:** Jim Hawley and Jack Collins met with Health Department staff to discuss working together to reach out to people before they reach a critical point. The Intel Center can take lists of overdoses and cross reference them with Probation and police lists to develop a database to provide to ACBC, UHS and Fairview. ACBC will have their peer counselors connect with people who are at high risk of overdose to offer a point of contact for support and follow-up. They will hire additional peer support staff and expand to evenings to reach more people. They are working on the billing piece and will be able to bill for that service.

UHS has two care navigators in the emergency room who will follow up with individuals who are transported to the emergency room following an overdose. ACBC peer support staff will reach out to individuals who overdose but refuse transport to the emergency room. Scott noted that in the emergency services field, if a person is alert and oriented they can refuse transportation to the emergency department. EMS responders need a clear understanding that the individual should be transported once Narcan has been administered. Ray Serowik is working on transport guidelines for emergency services personnel. Dr. Ryan noted that it is a small minority that decline transportation. Law enforcement personnel can use the mental health law to transport an individual against their will but that is not applied consistently. There are implications for forcible transport; there are dangers to the crew and patient.

By September, ACBC will have someone in the field to do crisis assessments. Fairview Recovery Center will open in 4-6 weeks and will have peer advocates available to join the project. Rebecca Kaufman, Mary McFadden and Dr. Christopher Ryan will develop the project on paper with a logic model and evaluation plan to capture the impact to apply for grant funding. A plan for 24/7 coverage will be developed. ACBC will be offering a free community psychoeducation group for individuals who are not ready for treatment but who need some education. A multidisciplinary team will be developed in the future to look at individuals who have repeated overdoses or visits to the emergency departments to better coordinate services. The Mental Health Association's mobile crisis unit can be incorporated into the project.

**Strategic Plan:** Strategic planning for BOAC will begin in September to develop a workplan to guide BOAC activities, to track progress and to reevaluate after looking at impacts.

**BOAC Communication and Promotion Plan Update:** Haley McCrory continues work on the communication plan. She worked with Lourdes Youth Services and the Sheriff's Office to promote the graduation cards and the event at Maine-Endwell. The commercial developed through the contest will air on WBNG soon. Penny Stringfield said that media partners are interested in doing something to address this issue and she is willing to work on a public service campaign. The Health Department has had discussions with the County Executive on how to roll out the communication plan to the public and highlight agency involvement. This month the service provider fair and HIDTA maps will be promoted and the peer response teams and family fun nights will be promoted next month.

#### **Community Education Committee:**

- SAMSA will be here for a site visit for the Drug Free Communities Grant. Kara asked everyone to send in their hours spent on BOAC meetings and activities on the template that she provided for the in-kind match.
- Family fun nights will be held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Northside Park in Endicott, August 16<sup>th</sup> at Klumpp Park in Windsor and August 30<sup>th</sup> at CFJ Park in Johnson City for youth and families.
- A Prevention Night at the Devil's game is being planned.
- Kara and Katie met with Kyle King from the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force about data analysis from the Prevention Needs Assessment.
- Katie and Kara attended training in Baltimore on community assessment and mapping. It was very intense training and they must develop a strategic plan, evaluation plan and communication plan by February.
- Kara and Heidi Mikeska (BC Promise Zone) are working with schools on the School Resource Mapping Project which they want to roll out at the beginning of the school year. The Drug Free Communities Grant is doing the school mapping and the Community Foundation is doing the community mapping.
- Alcohol and drug Information will be posted on the BOCES website over the summer and they are moving ahead with getting information up on the school websites.

**Law Enforcement Committee:**

- The committee did not meet during the past month.
- Dr. John Zevan, a Broome County Coroner, joined the committee and will attend BOAC meetings. Coroners meet with the District Attorney quarterly. When a coroner is on the scene and suspects that the death may be related to an overdose, they contact Jason Ellis, the Chief Investigator for the District Attorney's Office so they can follow up on the information from the investigative agency. Every agency investigates their own overdoses and sends the information to the DA's Office. They are trying to determine commonalities from overdoses and see if they can track it back to a dealer.
- Law enforcement personnel met with Health Department staff last week for the Overdose Prevention Project Peer Response Team.
- The NYS Police asked for information that they could leave at sites where overdoses occur. They have two people to follow-up with an individual after an overdose and are seeing some success. They want to help connect these individuals to peer support.

**Treatment and Prevention Committee:**

- Information is being provided at senior centers on alcohol and mixing it with prescription drugs and about the prescription take back boxes.
- Carole Kuklis has a Treatment Workgroup which discusses barriers for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders.
- There is a new clinician, Becky Jamison, at the Wyoming Children's Center working with young boys with substance use issues. She will join the committee.
- Training will be offered to the community on motivational interviewing, Pain and Pain Management and Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders.
- OASAS assured Katie that we can have a waiver for the SARI Program to make sure the beds are available. UHS also has observation beds that could be used.
- UHS moved their Methadone Clinic to 33 Mitchell Avenue and will be able to add 40 people to the program.
- UHS has a process that when someone comes in for an assessment they are asked if they are involved in mental health treatment. They can refer them to a clinician to manage co-occurring disorders.
- STAP provided an emergency Narcan training on June 17<sup>th</sup> in response to an increase in overdoses in Johnson City.
- There are 6 mothers in the YWCA Bridge Program with 2 spots open. They are interested in getting additional agencies involved in meeting with these mothers.
- Colleen O'Neil from the Chemical Dependency Unit coordinated two clinics at DSS to do assessments for people applying for assistance. They do about 70 assessments per month.
- There are usually 8-10 women in the women's re-entry group which is for women who are back in the community from state prison. They meet weekly and there are currently 15 women in the group.
- A group is beginning for parents and grandparents on the first and third Mondays at 6:00 p.m. at City Lights Café.
- Carmela and Jill will begin a psychoeducational group for pre-contemplation and contemplation of change.
- ACBC will hire additional assessment staff and have open assessment times by September.
- Chris Herren's presentation is open to 1,500 people on September 28, 6-8 pm.
- Peer advocates require 46 hours of training. Jill Lloyd will become a trainer so there will be a training center in Broome County.
- September is Recovery Month. A candlelight vigil will be held at Tabernacle Church for people lost to overdoses on the third Saturday in September at 7:00 p.m. The first 5K for Recovery will be held October 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Policies and procedures have been written for the Detox Center and staff are being hired. They are waiting for final approval to open.

#### **Education of Medical Professionals Committee:**

- The committee will meet to discuss future activities for the committee now that the academic detailing project is complete.
- Legislation was passed to limit opiate prescriptions to seven days. Physicians use their clinical judgment in prescribing opiates and can be encouraged to think about alternatives for pain management besides prescribing opiates. Some education is needed for people that are being taken off long-term medication for chronic pain. ACBC has been receiving some calls regarding this. Senator Akshar will meet with UHS and Lourdes Hospital to see what is going on with long-term pain medication patients and take that information back to the Task Force.

#### **Data and Statistics Committee:**

- The committee met and Dr. Ryan gave an overview on what public health surveillance is and the definition of actionable data to control public health problems. They discussed what data sources would be useful to control this problem. When conducting solution capacity surveillance, the goal is to have 2-4 indicators in each category to monitor the problem and solution to give us a sense of where we are. Indicators will be defined at future meetings. We could track Naloxone administrations, frequency of emergency room visits for opiate related problems, frequency of opioid related deaths, waiting times for routine non-emergency assessments, number of local prescribers trained with the DEA waiver for Buprenorphine prescribing, number of admissions to OASAS regulated facilities, and number and nature of discharges. We could survey for self-reported behaviors and event related behaviors. A question was raised about whether to track non-opioid substance use/dependence and gateway drugs. The Prevention Needs Assessment for youth measures all substances including alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Most visits to emergency rooms are alcohol related. The Drug Free Communities Grant looks at observational data and will go into the schools and conduct surveys. The type of data to be collected will be discussed through the strategic planning process.

#### **Rural Committee:**

- The committee is focusing on contacting rural communities to see what services and events are available and providing information to rural areas. They will be reaching out to health clinics in those areas and would like to put together some informational packets for those clinics. They are looking at what activities churches provide for teens in those areas.
- Amber Kida is working on the AmeriCorps grant and is part of the Whitney Point Response Committee. She is doing a lot of work in Whitney Point to provide education to parents about what to look for with drug use and wants to do some work in the schools at open houses. Whitney Point will have a block party next Saturday where information will be provided. The "Kids, Drugs and Booze" brochure will be distributed.

The next BOAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the Broome County Health Department.